

# ***Board of County Commissioners***

## ***Sumter County, Florida***

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December 14, 2010

Honorable Governor-Elect Scott  
State of Florida  
The Capitol  
400 S. Monroe St.  
Tallahassee, FL 32399-0001

Honorable Governor-Elect Scott:

On behalf of the Sumter County Board of County Commissioners, I wish to congratulate you on your election as Governor of the great state of Florida.

Sumter County is an area of the state that holds great opportunity to further your focus on promoting positive economic development and job growth within our state. Our county is strategically located at the confluence of major critical state transportation corridors, which include both highway and heavy rail. This strategic location makes our county a logical focal point for the attraction and development of economic activities that may rely on the interface of highway and rail transport and are additionally benefitted by the relative short commute to major international airports such as Orlando International Airport and Tampa International Airport.

A key component to the success of our economic development and job creation activities is the continuing close coordination, and in some cases consolidated, provision of planning services, development of critical infrastructure, and efficient delivery of public services between the County and its municipalities. Over the past three years, the County, in cooperation with the cities of Wildwood, Webster, Center Hill, and Bushnell, have successfully negotiated and adopted Interlocal Service Boundary/Joint Planning Agreements pursuant to Chapter 171, Part II, and Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes ("Agreements").

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These Agreements have implemented a common vision between the County and the cities for the future development of the county and the cities as well as the efficient provision of infrastructure and public services. A central theme through the Agreements is to eliminate the duplication of public services and to provide the public services to the citizens of the county with the highest level of service at the least cost without regard for jurisdiction. Attached is a matrix that shows the public services addressed within the Agreements and whether or not the services are consolidated or coordinated between the County and each of the cities. You will notice that the City of Coleman, unlike the other four cities, decided to not move forward with adopting the Agreement with the County.

The County and the cities are now in the process of taking the final full implementation steps of the Agreements. This final step is the amendment of the County's and each of the cities' Comprehensive Plans, adopted pursuant to Chapter 163, Part II, Florida Statutes. We have been working with the Florida Department of Community Affairs (DCA) over the past few years in preparation for this final step.

We share the concerns you raised during your campaign regarding DCA. However, we also recognize the value of maintaining a positive relationship with DCA to follow through with the implementation of our coordinated planning efforts with the cities and to promote positive economic development within our county, the region, and the state. We trust that the potential changes to DCA and growth management laws will continue to support our efforts and not result in the loss of momentum that was built over the past few years.

As you move forward with the process of considering reorganization of DCA and other changes to Florida's growth management laws (i.e. Chapter 163 and Chapter 380, Florida Statutes), we are willing to provide you with any assistance in evaluating the changes and its potential impacts to a county that is making great strides in developing a positive economic future for its citizens.

If you have any questions or would like to contact the County for assistance, please contact Bradley Arnold, County Administrator, at 352-689-4400.

Sincerely,

Don Burgess  
Chairman – Board of County Commissioners